Docket No. HRT0144CON

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Donlon et al.

Serial No. : Art Unit:

Filed : Examiner:

For : Less-Invasive Devices and Methods for Cardiac

Valve Surgery

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

September 15, 2003
(Date of Deposit)

Brian S. Tomko
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

September 15, 2003

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this

information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under \$1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in \$1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under \$1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In ac	ccordance w	ith §	1.129	(a), t	his Ir	nformati	on	
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first or 🗌 seco	nd After F	inal	Submi	ssion,	there	fore:		
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In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information
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Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e)  (attached); or  Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-  0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth  in §1.17(p).
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Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.  Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:
In view of the voluminous nature of references  [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that  these references are available to the Examiner,  copies are not enclosed herewith.
If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.
Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior aplication Serial No. 09/416,492, filed October 12, 1999, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/594,870, filed

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January 31,1996, now U.S. patent No. 6,010,531, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/485,600, filed June 7, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/281,962, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/163,241, now U.S. Patent No. 5,571,215, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/023,778, now U.S. Patent No. 5,452,733. This application is also a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/486,941, now U.S. Patent No. 5,799,661. There are no listed references which are not in the

English language. The relevance of those listed references which are

not in the English language is as follows: Attached are copies of search report(s) from

corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/HRT144CON/BST. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Tomko

Reg. No. 41,349

Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson One Johnson & Johnson Plaza New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003 (732) 524-1239 DATED: September 15, 2003

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1	Application Number						
	Filing Date						
	First Named Inventor	Donlon					
	Group Art Unit	3738					
	Examiner Name	D. Isabella					
	Attorney Docket Number	HRT-0144CON					

				U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS	<del></del>		
	U.S. Patent Document			AL COMPANY AND AND CO	Date of Publication	Pages Columns Lines	
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> Number (if known)		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	
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Examiner Initials	Cite	Foreign Patent Document  Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> KindCode <sup>5</sup>		 Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		EP	0 218 275		4/1987		
		FR	2681775		4/1993		
		wo	87/05489		9/1987		
		wo	93/20742		10/93		
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<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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First Named Inventor	Donlon					
Group Art Unit	3738					
Examiner Name	D. Isabella					
Attorney Docket Number	HRT-0144CON					

		Include name of the author (in CAPITOL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item	_
xaminer's	Cite	(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s),	T <sup>2</sup>
nitiais*	No.1	publisher, city and/or country where published	
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Signature	Considered	

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